## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

	) Case No.:
LISA WALKER,	)
Plaintiff,	)
V.	)
BLUESTEM BRANDS INC. D/B/A FINGERHUT,	) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED ) )
Defendant.	, )

### **COMPLAINT**

LISA WALKER ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against BLUESTEM BRANDS, INC. d/b/a FINGERHUT ("DEFENDANT"):

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331. <u>See Mims v.</u>
   Arrow Fin. Services, LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740, 747, 181 L. Ed. 2d 881 (2012).
- 3. Defendant regularly conducts business in the State of Michigan, thus, personal jurisdiction is established.

4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. §153(39).
- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Westland, Michigan 48185.
- 7. Defendant is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 8. Defendant is a corporation with its principal place of business located at 7075 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344.
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Plaintiff has a cellular telephone number that she has had for at least one year.
  - 11. Plaintiff has only used this number as a cellular telephone.
- 12. Beginning in or about May 2015 and continuing thereafter, Defendant placed repeated telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 13. When contacting Plaintiff, Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system, automated message and/or prerecorded voice.

- 14. Plaintiff knew that Defendant was using an automated telephone dialing system and/or prerecorded voice because the calls would begin with a delay or pause before speaking to Defendant's representatives.
  - 15. Defendant's telephone calls were not made for "emergency purposes."
- 16. Desiring to stop the repeated telephone calls, Plaintiff spoke with Defendant's agents to advise them that she no longer wanted to be contacted on her cellular telephone and requested Defendant stop calling her in or around November or December 2015.
- 17. Once Defendant was aware that its calls were unwanted and to stop, there was no lawful purpose to continue making further calls, nor was there any good faith reason to place calls.
- 18. However, Defendant refused to update its records to restrict telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone despite Plaintiff's repeated instruction to stop calling.
- 19. Thereafter, Defendant continued to call Plaintiff on her cellular telephone through in or around March 2017.
- 20. After Defendant ignored Plaintiff's request for calls to cease she downloaded an application to her cellular telephone to block Defendant's calls.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Defendant conducts business in a manner which violates the TCPA.

# COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- 22. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 23. Defendant initiated multiple automated telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 24. Defendant's initiated these automated calls to Plaintiff using an automatic telephone dialing system.
- 25. Defendant repeatedly placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 26. Under § 227(b)(3)(A) of the TCPA, a person or entity may bring a private cause of action in an appropriate court based on a violation of the TCPA or the regulations prescribed under the TCPA to enjoin such violation.
- 27. Under § 227(b)(3)(B) of the TCPA, a person or entity may bring a private cause of action in an appropriate court "to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation whichever is greater."
- 28. Based upon the conduct of Defendant, Plaintiff avers that the enhancement of damages provided for by the TCPA allowing for Plaintiff to recover up to \$1,500 per call/violation be applied to calls placed.

- 29. Defendant's conduct violated § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by placing repeated calls using an automatic telephone dialing system to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 30. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone after she revoked consent were not made with Plaintiff's prior express consent.
- 31. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.
- 32. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.
- 33. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LISA WALKER, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

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1	a.	All acti	ıal	da	mages	suff	ered	pur	suant	to	47	U.S.C	C. §
2		227(b)(3	)(A	A);									
3	b.	Statutory	, d	lama	nges o	f \$50	00 00	ner	viola	tive	tele	nhone	cal
4	0.	-						-	vioia	uvc	tcic	phone	car
5		pursuant	to	47 U	J.S.C.	§ 227	(b)(3)	)(B);					
6	c.	Treble of	lan	nage	es of	\$1,50	0.00	per	viola	tive	tele	phone	cal
7		pursuant	to	47 U	J.S.C.	§227(	(b)(3)	;					
8	d. Injunctive relief pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3); and												
9   10	e.	e. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.											
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14	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, LISA WALKER, demands a jury												
15	trial in this case.												
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20	Dated: April 21, 2	017		By	: <u>/s/ Aı</u>	ny L.	Benn	necof	f Gins	burg	<u>,</u>		
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